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EXAMINER

PATEL, MUNJALKUMAR C

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/576,391	Applicant(s) BELL ET AL.	
	Examiner Munjal Patel	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-8 and 14-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-8 and 14-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. Applicant has cancelled claims 4, 9-13, the Examiner acknowledges it.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. **Claims 1-3, 6-8, 15-19, 21-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Akins III et al. (US PG PUB # US 2003/0169879 A1)** herein after referred as **Akins**.

5. **Regarding claim 1, Akins** discloses a method for accessing content according to at least one location within a first geographical area of a plurality of geographical areas, wherein the content is provided within the plurality of geographical areas (**Akins: Abstract & Fig 1-3 & ¶ 0056 disclose first geographical area define by large number of set top boxes, i.e. at least one location accessing content**), the method

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being independent of determining the location and comprising:

defining the first geographical area (**Akins: Fig 5 & ¶ 0056 describes defining a first geographical area specifically lines [4-9] define by large number of set top boxes**) by one or more selected nodes of one or more networks;

determining first data for identifying the first geographical area (**Akins: Fig 1 & ¶ 0056, 0311 describes determining first data in relation to the first geographical area, hence identifying the geographical area define by large number of set top boxes**) as defined by the one or more selected nodes;

determining second data for identifying at least one location within the first geographical area in dependence on the first data (**Akins: Fig 1:107, ¶ 0056 lines [10-15], ¶ 0311-0316 discloses ECM identifying location of user to enable or disable the content**);

sending the second data via the one or more selected nodes only to locations within the first geographical area (**Akins: Fig 3:323 & ¶ 0017 lines [6-10] discloses it can be sent with the instance data or the separate channel, it will be users choice to send it only through first network or a separate channel**);

providing the first data to a receiver (**Akins: Fig 3:315 EMM**) not via the one or more selected nodes (**Originally filed specification disclose First data can be sent to receiver via network including internet or via the network or media containing that content to be accessed, i.e. the Examiner interprets this as first data sent to receiver via network other than the one being used for second data, ¶ 0057 discloses EMM and ECM can be sent via separate channel or out-of band RF link**);

and, at the receiver:

accessing the first data (**Akins: Fig 3:315**);

receiving the second data from the one or more selected nodes (**Akins: Fig 3:323 & ¶ 0017 lines [6-10] discloses it can be sent with the instance data hence received by receiver from the first network as well**); comparing the second data with the first data (**Akins: Fig 3:343**); and accessing the content in dependence on the results of the comparison (**Akins: Fig 3:347**) wherein the content is access according to the at least one location within the first geographical area of the plurality of geographical area, wherein the content is provided within the plurality of geographical area, in a manner that is independent of determining the location (**Akins: ¶ 0057 discloses EMM and ECM can be sent via separate channel or out-of band RF link, i.e. independent & Fig 1:107, ¶ 0056 lines [10-15], ¶ 0311-0316 discloses ECM identifying location of user to enable or disable the content**). Although, **Akins** briefly discloses the transmission medium for EMM to be sent by first network, nonetheless, **the examiner** maintains that it was well known in the art to provide EMM through different transmission mediums as also taught by **Akins** (**Akins: ¶ 0073 lines [23-31] disclose that the transmission medium for the EMM can be, for example, a CD-ROM, a DVD, a floppy disk or the Internet**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify **Akins** by specifically providing use of transmission medium other than first network as taught by **Akins**, for the purpose of providing more secure access.

6. **Regarding claim 2, Akins** discloses the method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the step of, storing the first data following the step of accessing the first data (**Akins: ¶ 0057 lines [14-16] discloses first data is being received by the set top box and then stored**). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 1.

7. **Regarding claim 3, Akins** discloses the method as claimed in claim 1, wherein sending second data comprises broadcasting said second data (**Akins: Fig 3:329, 319 & ¶ 0055 lines [13-15] , 0056 lines [1-2] discloses encrypted instance (including ECM) is broadcasted**). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 1.

8. **Regarding claim 6, Akins** discloses the method as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a correspondence between the first data and the second data (**Akins: ¶ 0085 lines [6-8] describes ECM being authenticated by MSK 309 which is part of EMM**). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 1.

9. **Regarding claim 7, Akins** discloses the method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second data is encrypted prior to being sent (**Akins: ¶ 0083 lines [11-12]**), and decrypted after being received (**Akins: ¶ 0084 lines [1-3]**). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 1.

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10. **Regarding claim 8, Akins** discloses a system for accessing content at least one location within a first geographical area of a plurality of geographical areas, the system comprising:

a server operable to **(Akins: System used in Fig 1,3 & 5):**

define the first geographical area **(Akins: Fig 5 & ¶ 0056 describes defining a first geographical area specifically lines [4-9] define by large number of set top boxes)**

by one or more selected nodes of one or more networks;

determine first data for identifying the first geographical area **(Akins: Fig 1 & ¶ 0056, 0311 describes determining first data in relation to the first geographical area, hence identifying the geographical area);** and

determine second data for identifying the at least one location within the first geographical area in dependence on first data **(Akins: Fig 1:107, ¶ 0056 lines [10-15], ¶ 0311-0316 discloses ECM that identifies location of user to enable or disable the content);**

the one or more selected nodes operable to send second data only to locations within the first geographical area **(Akins: Fig 3:323 network used & ¶ Fig 5 & ¶ 0056 describes defining a first geographical area specifically lines [4-9] define by large number of set top boxes);** and

means to provide first data to a receiver **(Akins: Fig 3: 331 transmission medium);**

a receiver operable to:

access the first data **(Akins: Fig 3:315);**

receive second data from the one or more selected nodes **(Akins: Fig 3:323 &**

paragraph 0017 lines [6-10] discloses it can be sent with the instance data hence received by at least one receiver from the first network as well);
compare the second data with the first data (**Akins: Fig 3:343**); and
access the content in dependence on the results of the comparison (**Akins: Fig 3:347**),
wherein content is accessed according to the at least one location within the first
geographical area of the plurality of geographical area, wherein the content is provided
within the plurality of geographical areas in a manner that is independent of determining
the location (**Akins: ¶ 0057 discloses EMM and ECM can be sent via separate
channel or out-of band RF link, i.e. independent & Fig 1:107, ¶ 0056 lines [10-15],
¶ 0311-0316 discloses ECM identifying location of user to enable or disable the
content**). Although, **Akins** briefly discloses the transmission medium for EMM to be
sent by first network, nonetheless, **the examiner** maintains that it was well known in the
art to provide EMM through different transmission mediums as also taught by **Akins**
(**Akins: ¶ 0073 lines [23-31] disclose that the transmission medium for the EMM
can be, for example, a CD-ROM, a DVD, a floppy disk or the Internet**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the
time the invention was made to modify **Akins** by specifically providing use of
transmission medium other than first network as taught by **Akins**, for the purpose of
providing more secure access.

11. **Regarding claim 15, Akins** discloses the system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein
the means to provide the first data to a receiver comprises a second network operable

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to send the first data to the receiver (**Akins: ¶ 0017 lines [6-7] disclose authorization data and instance data are sent on same channel**). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 8.

12. **Regarding claim 16, Akins** discloses the system as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the second network is further operable to send content to the receiver (**Akins: ¶ 0017 lines [6-7] discloses authorization data and instance data are sent on same channel**). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 15.

13. **Regarding claim 17, Akins** discloses a receiver for use in the system as claimed in any one of Claims 8, 14, 15 or 16 the receiver comprising: an interface operable to access the first data (**Akins: Fig 3:315 discloses EMM being received, hence an interface operable to access EMM**);

a first tuner operable to receive second data from the one or more selected nodes (**Akins: Fig 3:323 & ¶ 0017 lines [6-10] discloses it can be sent with the instance data hence received by at least one receiver from the first network as well**); and

a processor operable to:

compare the second data with first data (**Akins: Fig 3 & ¶ 0084 discloses comparison between EMM and ECM, hence presence of processor for performing the comparison**); and

access content in dependence on the results of the comparison (**Akins: ¶ 0084 lines [10-15] discloses if comparison is successful, content is decrypted by service**

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decryptor 347) wherein content is accessed according to the at least one location within the first geographical area of the plurality of geographical areas, wherein the content is provided within the plurality of geographical area in a manner that is independent of determining the location (**Akins: ¶ 0057 discloses EMM and ECM can be sent via separate channel or out-of band RF link, i.e. independent & Fig 1:107, ¶ 0056 lines [10-15], ¶ 0311-0316 discloses ECM identifying location of user to enable or disable the content**). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 16.

14. **Regarding claim 18, Akins** discloses the receiver as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said receiver further comprises a store and wherein the processor is further operable to store accessed first data (**Akins: ¶ 0057 lines [14-16]**). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 17.

15. **Regarding claim 19, Akins** discloses the receiver as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said receiver further comprising comprises a second tuner operable to receive content (**Akins: Fig 3:323, hence second tuner**). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 17.

16. **Regarding claim 21, Akins** discloses the receiver as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the interface is operable to communicate with a modem (**Akins: ¶ 0139 lines [1-5] discloses service encryption and ECM component of QAM modulator, hence**

presence of modem along with the interface communicating with each other). This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 17.

17. **Regarding claim 22, Akins** discloses the receiver as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the processor is further operable to access first data via the second tuner **(Akins: Fig 3:323 & ¶ 0017 lines [6-10] discloses it can be sent with the instance data or the separate channel, it will be users choice to send it only through first network or a separate channel).** This claim is rejected for the same motivation as claim 19.

18. **Regarding claim 23, Akins** discloses a method for providing access to content according to at least one location within a first geographical area of a plurality of geographical areas, wherein the content is provided within the plurality of geographical areas **(Akins: Abstract & Fig 1-3 & ¶ 0056 disclose first geographical area define by large number of set top boxes, i.e. at least one location accessing content),** the method being independent of determined the location and comprising:

defining the first geographical area by one or more selected nodes of one or more networks **(Akins: Fig 5 & ¶ 0056 describes defining a first geographical area specifically lines [4-9] define by large number of set top boxes);**

determining first data for identifying the first geographical area as defined by the one or more selected nodes **(Akins: Fig 1 & ¶ 0056, 0311 describes determining first**

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data in relation to the first geographical area, hence identifying the geographical area define by large number of set top boxes);

determining second data for identifying the at least one location within the first geographical area in dependence on the first data **(Akins: Fig 1:107, ¶ 0056 lines [10-15], ¶ 0311-0316 discloses ECM identifying location of user to enable or disable the content);;**

providing the first data to a receiver **(Akins: Fig 3:315 EMM);**

sending the second data via the one or more selected nodes only to locations within the first geographical area **(Akins: Fig 3:323 & ¶ 0017 lines [6-10] discloses it can be sent with the instance data or the separate channel, it will be users choice to send it only through first network or a separate channel);** Although, **Akins** briefly discloses the transmission medium for EMM to be sent by first network, nonetheless, **the examiner** maintains that it was well known in the art to provide EMM through different transmission mediums as also taught by **Akins (Akins: ¶ 0073 lines [23-31] disclose that the transmission medium for the EMM can be, for example, a CD-ROM, a DVD, a floppy disk or the Internet).**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify **Akins** by specifically providing use of transmission medium other than first network as taught by **Akins**, for the purpose of providing more secure access.

19. **Claim 5** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akins in

view of **Sibecas et al.(US Patent # US 5,940,756)** herein after referred as **Sibecas**.

20. **Regarding claim 5, Akins** discloses the method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the first data comprises at least one GSM Cell_ID, and the second data comprises a GSM Cell_ID matching a GSM Cell_ID of the first data. **however Akins** fails to disclose first data comprises at least one GSM Cell ID and the second data comprises a GSM Cell ID matching a GSM Cell ID of the first data, **however** examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide GSM cell ID, as taught by **Sibecas (Fig: 16:1614-1622 & column 15 lines [35-43])**.

21. **In** a similar field of endeavor **Sibecas** discloses method of transmitting paging communication on cellular communication system. In addition **Sibecas** discloses first data comprises at least one GSM Cell ID and the second data comprises a GSM Cell ID matching a GSM Cell ID of the first data.

22. **Therefore**, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify **Akins** by specifically providing first data comprises at least one GSM Cell ID and the second data comprises a GSM Cell ID matching a GSM Cell ID of the first data as taught by **Sibecas**, for the purpose of making it a unique authorization key.

23. **Claims 14 and 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Akins** in view of **Kahn et al.(US Patent # US 7,369,660 B1)** herein after referred as **Kahn**.

24. **Regarding claim 14, Akins** discloses the system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the means to provide first data to a receiver comprises a Smart Card containing the first data (**Akins: ¶ 0073 lines [23-31] describes EMM can be send out of band i.e. on storage medium such as CD-ROM, DVD, Floppy or any other medium that can be transferred physically, electronically or otherwise**]. **However Akins** fails to disclose specifically using Smart Card as a storage medium. **However** examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide Smart card as a storage medium (**Kahn: Column 1 lines [36-39]**)

25. **In** a similar field of endeavor **Kahn** discloses method and apparatus for distributing digital content. In addition **Kahn** discloses Smart Card being used as storage medium.

26. **Therefore**, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify **Akins** by specifically providing "Smart Card" as a storage medium as taught by **Kahn** for the purpose of providing unique authorization key which will enable user to decode authorized content.

27. **Regarding claim 20, Akins** discloses the receiver as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the interface is operable to read a Smart Card. (**Akins: ¶ 0073 lines [23-31] describes EMM can be send out of band i.e. on storage medium such as CD-ROM, DVD, Floppy or any other medium that can be transferred physically, electronically or otherwise**]. **However, Akins** fails to disclose specifically using Smart

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Card as a storage medium. **However** the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide Smart card as a storage medium (**Kahn: Column 1 lines [36-39], hence interface to read Smart Card**).

28. **In** a similar field of endeavor **Kahn** discloses method and apparatus for distributing digital content. In addition **Kahn** discloses Smart Card being used as storage medium.

29. **Therefore**, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify **Akins** by specifically providing "Smart Card" as a storage medium as taught by **Kahn** for the purpose of providing unique authorization key which will enable user to decode authorized content.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/09/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. Applicant's argument on page 8 ¶ 0003 – page 9 ¶ 0002 regarding claim 1 on about the prior art does not provide any method for the terminal to determine its own location" as its service provider informs the terminal about its location & applicant's invention where "the receiver is arranged to receive the second data and autonomously determine its location based on receiving said second data with first data" are different, however, the examiner respectfully disagrees as in both cases the receiver receives the second data and first data from the network

(or service provider) and location is autonomously determined as cited in the rejection above.

b. Applicant's argument on page 9 ¶ 0003 regarding current invention requires that the second data is sent via a network only to locations within the first area, however the Examiner respectfully disagrees as Akins clearly disclose it can be sent via the first network as cited (Akins: Fig 3:323 & ¶ 0017 lines [6-10] discloses it can be sent with the instance data or the separate channel, it will be users choice to send it only through first network or a separate channel).

c. Applicant's argument on page 9 ¶ 0004 – page 11 ¶ 0001, page 12 ¶ 0001 – page 13 ¶ 0001 regarding claim 1 that Akin's fails to disclose "the first data is determined for identifying the first geographical area as defined by the one or more selected nodes" however the Examiner respectfully disagrees as Akins (Akins: Fig 5 & ¶ 0056 describes defining a first geographical area specifically lines [4-9] define by large number of set top boxes) clearly disclose first geographical area defined by (0...N) set top boxes, i.e. based on EMM data the first geographical area is defined. Similarly based on ECM data a particular set top box is identified to receive a particular program in the service (Akins: ¶ 0056 and Fig 1:107), hence the Examiner's interpretation of Second data is determined for identifying at least one location within the first geographical area in dependence on the first data.

d. Applicant's argument on page 12 ¶ 0001 – page 13 ¶ 0001 regarding claim 1 " determining second data for identifying at least one location within the

first geographical area in dependence of first data” is not disclosed by Akins, however, the examiner respectfully disagree as cited Fig 1:107 & ¶ 0056 lines [10-15] disclose use of ECM in control word information which contains information regarding location as further disclosed ¶ 0311-0316 discloses ECM that identifies location of user to enable or disable the content as cited.

e. Applicant's argument on page 12 ¶ 0001 – page 13 ¶ 0001 regarding “sending second data via a first network, only to location within the first geographical area, however, the examiner respectfully disagrees as cited Fig 3:323 shows sending ECM via first network, here it is inherent that ECM is sent via first network, only to location within the first geographical area due to the fact that ECM and EMM (both combined) are used to authorize conditional access (restricted local area) to the content in a geographical area. Hence examiner’s interpretation of ECM is sent only to locations within the first geographical area. As cited ECM and EMM can be sent via 2 different networks independent of each other.

f. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

g. Applicant’s argument on page 12 ¶ 0001-page 13 ¶ 0001 about the prior art failing to disclose “determining second data for identifying at least one

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location within the first geographical area in dependence on the first data & sending the second data via a first network only to location within the first geographical area”, however, the examiner respectfully disagrees as cited in rejected claims 1 & 8 above, Prior art clearly teaches ECM identifies a specific set top box in the total geographic area in dependence on EMM and sending ECM with the first instance as well as cited in claim 1 & 8 above.

Conclusion

30. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Munjal Patel whose telephone number is (571)270-5541. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 6:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rafael Perez-Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-7915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. P./

Examiner, Art Unit 2617